AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application and is submitted herewith per 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

Claims 1-20, 24, 27 and 28 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 42 and 43 are herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 44 is newly added.

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method ~~to operate a storage area network (SAN) in a server environment in which multiple operating system images share one Fibre Channel adapter, the method~~ comprising:

managing ~~the~~ a storage area network (SAN) ~~by a SAN Management software~~ with at least a SAN Management server and ~~at least~~ a SAN Management client, said SAN Management client running a trusted operating system and ~~with~~ having a communication path to ~~said~~ a Fibre Channel ~~Adapter~~ adapter, said Fibre Channel adapter being disposed between the SAN and at least one computer system running an untrusted operating system, said SAN Management server being connected to the at least one computer system and the SAN Management client, said SAN Management client being further connected to the at least one computer system, and

separating requests issued by the SAN Management server into at least two groups,

where a first group of requests is issued to the SAN Management client and processed by the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN on behalf of the ~~SM~~ SAN Management client in place of the at least one computer system ~~operating system images which share the same Fibre Channel Adapter, corresponding to a trusted path~~, and

a second group of requests is issued to and processed by the ~~operating system images~~ at least one computer system without the need to send or receive requests to or from the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

routing all information contained in unsolicited messages generated in the SAN and Fibre Channel adapter to the SAN Management server by the SAN management client.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

using Host Bus Adapter_Application Program Interface binding requests to modify a firewall interposed between the at least one computer system and the Fibre Channel adapter, and operating the communication path from the SAN Management client to the Fibre Channel adapter so that it cannot be modified or eavesdropped by an operating the at least one computer system image.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

accessing all information relevant for billing individual operating system images ones of the at least one computer system, where said information is generated in the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN and where said information is accessed only through the SAN Management client on the trusted path.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

said SAN Management server providing authorization data to the SAN Management client to execute requests from said first group, and said SAN Management server and SAN Management client providing authorization data to the OS images at least one computer system to execute requests from said second group, and operating the OS images at least one computer system so that they are it is only enabled to execute a limited command set in the SAN.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~apparatus stored on a computer usable medium, comprising~~ apparatus tangibly storing a computer readable program, where the computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to ~~operate~~ perform operations to manage a storage area network (SAN), ~~in an environment in which multiple operating system images (OS images) share one Fibre Channel adapter by~~ the operations ~~of~~ comprising1:

      managing the SAN ~~with~~ comprising at least a SAN Management server and ~~at least~~ a SAN Management client, said SAN Management client running a trusted operating system and ~~with~~ having a communication path to ~~said~~ a Fibre Channel ~~Adapter~~ adapter, said Fibre Channel adapter being disposed between the SAN and at least one computer system running an untrusted operating system, said SAN Management server being connected to the at least one computer system and the SAN Management client, said SAN Management client being further connected to the at least one computer system, and

      separating requests issued by the SAN Management server into at least two groups,

      where a first group of requests is issued to the SAN Management client and processed by the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN on behalf of the ~~SM~~ SAN Management client in place of the at least one computer system ~~operating system images which share the same Fibre Channel Adapter, corresponding to a trusted path~~, and

      a second group of requests is issued to and processed by the ~~operating system images~~ at least one computer system without the need to send or receive requests to or from the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

      routing information contained in unsolicited messages generated in at least one of the SAN and Fibre Channel adapter to the SAN Management server by the SAN management client.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

using Host Bus Adapter_Application Program Interface binding requests to modify a firewall interposed between ~~said OS images~~ said at least one computer system and said Fibre Channel adapter.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

operating the communication path from the SAN Management client to the Fibre Channel adapter so that it cannot be accessed by the at least one computer system ~~an operating system image~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

accessing information relevant for billing individual ~~operating system images~~ ones of the at least one computer system, where said information is generated in the Fibre Channel adapter and the SAN and where said information is accessed only through the SAN Management client ~~on the trusted path~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

providing authorization data from the SAN Management server to the SAN Management client to execute requests from said first group of requests.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of:

providing authorization data from the SAN Management server and the SAN Management client to the ~~OS images~~ at least one computer system to execute requests from said second group of requests.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, further comprising an operation of enabling the ~~OS images~~ at least one computer system to execute a limited command set in the SAN.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, ~~wherein the SAN Management server is equipped with a SAN Management Client and a Remote Access Server (RA Server),~~ further comprising an operation of maintaining authorization data for accessing ~~the~~ a Remote Access (RA) Server, where said authorization data is maintained in at least one of the SAN Management server and the SAN Management Client.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 37, further comprising an operation of operating the SAN Management Client as a router for requests from the SAN Management server to the RA server.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 37, wherein the RA Server comprises a telnet/sshd server.

40. (Currently Amended) A storage area network (SAN) Management server, comprising:

a first interface configured to couple to a SAN Management client ~~that comprises~~ running a trusted operating system ~~(OS)~~, said SAN Management client being further coupled to a SAN via a SAN adapter and to at least one computer system running an untrusted operating system; and

a second interface configured to couple to ~~at~~ the least one ~~untrusted operating~~ computer system, said at least one ~~untrusted OS~~ computer system being coupled to the SAN via the SAN adapter and via a unit for regulating access to the SAN;

where said SAN Management server comprises logic for distinguishing a first set of requests from a second set of requests, where the first set of requests ~~are~~ is issued to the SAN Management client and processed ~~in cooperation only with~~ by the SAN adapter and the SAN on behalf of said SAN Management client in place of the at least one computer system, and where the second set of requests ~~are~~ is issued to and processed at least in part by the at least one ~~untrusted operating~~ computer system without the need to send or receive requests to or from the SAN adapter and the SAN.

41. (Currently Amended) The SAN Management server as in claim 40, where said first set of requests comprises at least one of a SAN request and a SAN adapter request, and where said second set of requests comprises a request for ~~untrusted OS~~ configuration data of the at least one computer system.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, where the Fibre Channel adapter accepts requests relating to crucial information only from the SAN Management client, where the crucial information comprises information relating to at least one of a SAN configuration, a SAN component, SAN access rights, error messages, statistics or billing information, where the operation of separating the requests issued by the SAN Management server is performed by a communication module that is distributed over the SAN Management server and the SAN Management client, further comprising an operation of maintaining authorization data for accessing a Remote Access (RA) Server, where said authorization data is maintained in at least one of the SAN Management server and the SAN Management Client, further comprising an operation of operating the SAN Management Client as a router for requests from the SAN Management server to the RA server, wherein the RA Server comprises a telnet/sshd server, where the connection between the SM server, the SM client and RA server is an internet protocol (IP) based network.

45. (New) The computer program product apparatus as in claim 29, where the first group of requests comprises authorized SAN access requests and the second group of requests comprises operating system configuration requests.